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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Hartmut Geiger

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03/18/2008

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EXAMINER

TO, TOAN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/18/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

klpatent@kramerlevin.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/525,777	Applicant(s) GEIGER, HARTMUT	
	Examiner Toan C. To	Art Unit 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/28/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species 1, claims 1-23 in the reply filed on December 6, 2007 is acknowledged.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to because it does not contain section headings. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, and 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bechmenburg et al (U.S. 6,332,623).

With respect to claim 1, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system for a vehicle, the system comprising at least one air-suspension bellows (8a-8d) in communication with at least one further component (2, motor or 4) of the air-suspension system via an array of valves (16a-16d) to at least one of selectively increase and decrease a compressed-air quantity, said at least one further component including at least one volume (2, motor or 4), and at least one check valve (6) disposed between the array of valves (16a-16d) and the at least one volume to prevent compressed-air flow

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between the at least one air-suspension bellows (8a-8d) and the at least one volume (2, motor or 4) in one flow direction.

With respect to claims 2-4, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one check valve (6) is connected directly to said array of valves (16a-16d); wherein said at least one volume (2, motor or 4) includes a first partial volume (2) and a separate second partial volume (4), wherein said at least one check valve (6) includes a first check valve (6) to prevent compressed-air flow from the first partial volume (2) into the at least one air-suspension bellows (8a-8d).

With respect to claims 6-8, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, the at least one further component of the air-suspension system includes a compressed-air delivery device (2); wherein, said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (M) and a second partial volume (4), and said first partial volume (M) is disposed on an intake side of the compressed-air delivery device (2); said compressed-air delivery device includes a compressor (2).

With respect to claim 9, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein the at least one volume includes a first partial volume (2) and a second partial volume (4), and at least one of the compressor (2) forms at least a part of the first partial volume (2).

With respect to claim 10, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein, the at least one volume includes a first partial volume (2) and a second partial volume (4), and at least a part of the compressor forms a substantial part of the first partial volume (2).

With respect to claim 11, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (M) and a second partial volume (4), and said second partial volume (4) is disposed on an outlet side of the compressed-air delivery device (2).

With respect to claims 13-14, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, said at least one further component (2, M, 4) includes at least one air-discharge/dryer device (4); said at least one air discharge/dryer device includes at least one air dryer (4).

With respect to claim 15, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (2) and a second partial volume (4), and at least a part of said at least one air dryer (4) forms at least a part of said second partial volume (4).

With respect to claim 16, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (2) and a second partial volume (4), and at least a part of said at least one air dryer (4) forms a substantial part of said second partial volume (4).

With respect to claim 17, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, compressed air flows through said at least one air-discharge/dryer device (4) in the same direction in all operating conditions of said air-suspension system.

With respect to claim 18, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein said at least one further component includes an air-intake device (4).

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5. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shima et al (U.S. 4,881,753).

With respect to claim 1, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system for a vehicle, the system comprising at least one air-suspension bellows (228) in communication with at least one further component (206, 202, 214) of the air-suspension system via an array of valves (226, 232) to at least one of selectively increase and decrease a compressed-air quantity, said at least one further component including at least one volume (206, 202, 214), and at least one check valve (204, 208, 215, 217, 218) disposed between the array of valves (232, 226) and the at least one volume to prevent compressed-air flow between the at least one air-suspension bellows (8a-8d) and the at least one volume (206, 202, 214) in one flow direction.

With respect to claims 2-5, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one check valve (204, 215) is connected directly to said array of valves (226, 232); wherein said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a separate second partial volume (214), wherein said at least one check valve (204) includes a first check valve (204) to prevent compressed-air flow from the first partial volume (202) into the at least one air-suspension bellows (228); wherein the at least one check valve includes a second check valve (218) to prevent compressed air flow from the at least one suspension bellows into the second partial volume (214).

With respect to claims 6-8, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, the at least one further component of the air-suspension system includes a compressed-air delivery device (202); wherein, said at least one volume includes a first

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partial volume (206) and a second partial volume (214), and said first partial volume (206) is disposed on an intake side of the compressed-air delivery device (202); said compressed-air delivery device includes a compressor (202).

With respect to claim 9, Shima et al et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein the at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a second partial volume (214), and at least one of the compressor (202) forms at least a part of the first partial volume (202).

With respect to claim 10, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system discloses an air-suspension system, wherein, the at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a second partial volume (214), and at least a part of the compressor forms a substantial part of the first partial volume (202).

With respect to claim 11, Bechmenburg et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a second partial volume (214), and said second partial volume (214) is disposed on an outlet side of the compressed-air delivery device (202).

With respect to claims 13-14, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, said at least one further component includes at least one air-discharge/dryer device (214); said at least one air discharge/dryer device includes at least one air dryer (214).

With respect to claim 15, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a second

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partial volume (214), and at least a part of said at least one air dryer (214) forms at least a part of said second partial volume (214).

With respect to claim 16, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, said at least one volume includes a first partial volume (202) and a second partial volume (214), and at least a part of said at least one air dryer (214) forms a substantial part of said second partial volume (214).

With respect to claim 17, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein, compressed air flows through said at least one air-discharge/dryer device (214) in the same direction in all operating conditions of said air-suspension system.

With respect to claim 18, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein said at least one further component includes an air-intake device (206).

With respect to claims 19-21, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system wherein said at least a part of said compressor (202) is a crankcase; wherein said at least a part of said compressor (202) is an outlet chamber.

With respect to claims 22-23, Shima et al discloses an air-suspension system, wherein said at least a part of said at least one air dryer (214) is an air dryer cartridge.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. C. T./

/Toan C To/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3616

February 27, 2008